THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): We will adhere to the decision that is taken.

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: The short Duration Discussion is in an entirely different format. Clarifications are just questions and answers. They cannot be taken up together.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): The statement of the hon. Home Minister relates to a particular part of the situation or a segment of what has happened, that is, regarding the CBI's request to the Army authorities, while the other may cover a wider gamut or something like that. I am not aware of it. But that is the point to be discussed.

Now we will move to the other business. The Home Minister to move the motion regarding the Private Security Guards and Agencies (Regulation) Bill, 1994, for consideration.

THE PRIVE-SECURITY GUARDS AND AGENCIES (REGULATION) BILL, 1994

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I beg to move —

> "That the Bill to provide for the regulation of private security guards and agencies, be taken into consideration."

The Private Security Guards and Agencies (Regulation) Bill, 1994, was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 14.12.1994. The Rajya Sabha referred this bill for examination by the Parliamentary Committee on Home Affairs. The Committee submitted its report on 28.2.1996 and suggested certain changes/ amendments in the provisions made in the Bill. These changes have been accepted by the Government and have been incorporated in the revised Bill submitted for consideration.

As members are aware that in recent years, there has been a proliferation of private security agencies in India. This is due to the expansion in the number of business establishments, growth in crime and increasing demands for surveillance. The resources of the police are limited and they cannot meet the demand for security services on the scale required. While private agencies have helped meet the need of business estabilshments for security of their personnel and property, there has been growing concern about their functioning; many of these agencies conduct their operations without consideration for standards or ethics and if left unchecked can have adverse security implications. There is also the danger of private security firm employees encroaching upon the danger of private security firm employees encroaching upon the duties of the police by wearing uniforms which resemble those of the police and using weapons in an illegal manner.

Though a number of Associations for the promotion of security agencies have been formed, including the Security Association of India and the Association and Security Organisation (India), these Associations have also not been able to set proper norms of functioning and ensuring that security agencies of dubious reputation do not proliferate. As would be noticed, the main objectives of the Bill are to set proper norms for functioning of the Private Security Gurads and Agencies in the country and also to bring uniformity as far as possible, in regulation of private security agencies.

The salient features of the Bill include, *inter-alia;*

(i) appointing a Controlling Authority of private security agencies in each State/UT,

(ii) making holding of licenses mandatory for agencies,

(iii) stipulating criteria for obtaining licenses,

(iv) specifying ground for denial, suspension and revocation of licenses, issue of identification cards,

(v) specifying the type of training required for private security guards, and

(vi) specifying the duties of employers and powers of licencing authorities.

The important changes suggested by the Committee are in articles 5,6,8 and 13 of the Bill. These changes require; (a) the training of the security guards to be increased from one month to 3 months (b) the security guards should also preferably be appointed from amongst the ex-servicemen, former Civil and Armed police personnel, Home Guards, (c) the supervisors should also go through the verification of character and antecedents, (d) debarring a company, firm or an association of persons not registered in India from setting up any security agencies in India (e) that every private security agency shall maintain a register containing the names, addresses and salaries of supervisors also under its control.

The Ministry of Home Affairs will also consider issuing an amendment to the Arms Act, allowing the issue of licenses to the Private Security Agencies also as per requirement assessed by the licencing authority.

The Bill will not cover private detective agencies at present and will be restricted to private security agencies. Instead, it is proposed to issue administrative guidelines to State Governments and Union Territories regarding Private Detective Agencies. Depending on the experience in implementing these guidelines, a decision will be taken on whether or not extend the ligislation to cover private detective agencies as well.

With the above words, I commend the Bill on Regulation of Private Security Guards and Agencies for consideration and passing by this August House.

The question was proposed.

THE COAST-GUARD (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1996.—Contd.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Before I call the next speaker to speak on the Private Security Guards and Agencies (Regulation) Bill, 1994, I would like to know if Mr. Somu would like to move the motion for setting up of the Select Committee to consider the Coast-Guard (Amendment) Bill, 1996.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir I beg to move:

That the Bill further to amend the Coast Guard Act, 1978, be referred to a Select Committee.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): What about the composition of the Committee?

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU: Sir, I will announce the names tomorrow after consultation with the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Now the question is that the Bill further to amend the Cost Guard Act, 1978 be referred to a Select Committee.

The motion was adopted.

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल (राजस्थान): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, अभी पांच बजने में दस मिनट हैं और एक्सपोर्ट-इम्पोर्ट बैंक ऑफ इंडिया (अमेंडमेंड) बिल, 1997 पेंडिंग है। I would like to know whether we will finish all the Bills today itself or we would defer some of them to tomorrow

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): I think let us first discuss the Bill initiated